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Fact Sheet for the Honorable Andy Ireland, House of Representatives

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DEFENSE MANPOWER

Reductions in Joint Activities and Service Reallocations

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GAO

United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

National Security and
International Affairs Division

B-233015

May 17, 1989

The Honorable Andy Ireland
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ireland:

On January 24, 1989, you asked us to review Department of Defense (DOD) plans for implementing the reductions in headquarters organizations outlined in the Secretary of Defense's report to the Congress dated December 1, 1988. That report responded to a study by the DOD Deputy Inspector General on streamlining unified and specified command[1] headquarters. Specifically, you asked us to determine (1) the extent to which the reductions have been incorporated into the DOD budget, (2) which organizations received reductions, (3) how the reductions were being accomplished, and (4) what kinds of units were receiving reallocated positions.

Result in Brief

Of the 7,309 positions originally identified for elimination in the DOD Inspector General study, DOD eliminated 2,990 positions from its budget—426 from joint activities[2] and 2,564 from the services. The reductions are expected to be accomplished through normal attrition and rotation. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) approved the reallocation of 2,244 of these positions to combat and other high need areas.

Background

At the request of the Secretary of Defense, DOD's Deputy Inspector General studied the Joint Chiefs of Staff organization, the unified and specified command headquarters and headquarters support activities, and component commands. That study, entitled Review of Unified and Specified Command Headquarters, commonly known as the Vander Schaaf report, was completed in February 1988. It contained numerous organizational recommendations for eliminating duplicate functions and overlapping responsibilities among the various command headquarters. The study team identified 7,309 positions that it believed could be eliminated. The DOD Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1989 (P.L. 100-463)

[1]Unified commands are composed of forces from two or more services, and specified commands are made up of forces from a single service.

[2]Joint activities are those that report to or through the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in which more than one military service is normally represented.

required the Secretary of Defense to submit an evaluation of the Vander Schaaf report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

DOD Review of the Vander Schaaf Report

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commanders in Chief of the unified and specified commands agreed or partially agreed with 53 of the 157 specific organizational recommendations. They said that the study team had inadequate time to comprehend fully the relationship between the unified and specified commands and the military departments and that implementing the other recommendations would adversely affect unified and specified command operations. The initial review by the Joint Chiefs and the Commanders in Chief resulted in an agreement to cut 505 of the recommended 7,309 positions.

After its review of the recommendations, OSD estimated that an additional 1,000 positions could be saved by streamlining the policy and oversight functions for base operations and that another 1,500 positions could be saved by additional reductions in the policy, plans, operations, and logistics directorates of the major staffs.

On December 1, 1988, the Deputy Secretary of Defense sent letters outlining the cuts that were planned to the Chairmen, House and Senate Committees on Armed Services; the Chairmen, Subcommittees on Defense, House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation, House Committee on Armed Services; and the Chairman, Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel, Senate Committee on Armed Services. He stated that the reductions would be made in the January 1989 budget submission. He also stated that the personnel reductions would be used to fund validated combat positions in existing units if the positions could be identified in time.

Reductions and Reallocations Incorporated Into Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 Budget Submission

DOD's budget submission for fiscal years 1990 and 1991 included the elimination of 2,990 positions attributed to the review of the Vander Schaaf study. Table 1 summarizes the reductions by service.

Table 1: Summary of Reductions Resulting From the DOD Review of the Vander Schaaf Study

	Joint activities reductions	Internal service reductions	Total reductions
Army	122	1,001	**1,123**
Navy	143	511	**654**
Air Force	131	1,037	**1,168**
Marine Corps	26	15	**41**
DOD	4	0	**4**
Total	**426**	**2,564**	**2,990**

Table 2 shows the joint activities that received reductions.

Table 2: Reductions in Unified Command Headquarters, Joint Activities, and Joint Staff

Organization	Number of positions
U.S. Atlantic Command	112
U.S. Central Command	45
U.S. European Command	66
U.S. Southern Command	14
U.S. Pacific Command	76
U.S. Space Command	11
U.S. Special Operations Command	28
U.S. Transportation Command	4
Joint Staff	20
Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff	33
Electromagnetic Compatibility Analysis Center	1
Defense Courier Service	6
World-wide Military Command and Control System Information System Joint Program Manager	1
National Defense University	7
Joint Electronic Warfare Center	2
Total	**426**

Army, Navy, and Air Force organizations that were reduced are shown in tables 3, 4, and 5, respectively. Internal reductions in the Marine Corps amounted to 15 positions, but the location of these reductions has not been specified.

Table 3: Internal Army Reductions

Organization	Number of positions
Forces Command	203
Western Command	30
8th U.S. Army	265
Special Operations Command	6
U.S. Army, South	11
Space Command	2
U.S. Army, Japan	16
Military Traffic Management Command	35
U.S. Army, Europe	433
Total	**1,001**

Table 4: Internal Navy Reductions

Organization	Number of positions
U.S. Atlantic Fleet	240
U.S. Pacific Fleet	191
U.S. Navy, Europe	32
Military Sealift Command	45
Naval Space Command	3
Total	**511**

Table 5: Internal Air Force Reductions

Organization	Number of positions
U.S. Air Force, Europe	127
Air Force Space Command	94
Strategic Air Command	396
Pacific Air Command	148
Tactical Air Command	167
Military Airlift Command	105
Total	**1,037**

OSD approved service-requested reallocations of 2,244 (75 percent) of the 2,990 positions. The Army's reductions included 163 officers, 216 enlisted personnel, and 744 civilians. The Army received OSD approval to reallocate all 1,123 Army positions that were eliminated. It reallocated 75 officer positions to combat units, converted 88 officer positions to enlisted positions, and reallocated them along with the 216 lost enlisted positions to combat units. The 744 civilian positions were reallocated to medical support positions.

The Navy's reductions included 167 officers, 292 enlisted personnel, and 195 civilians. All officer and enlisted positions were reallocated to ships, squadrons, and submarines, and the civilian positions were reallocated to medical facilities. Of the Marine Corps' reduction of 41 positions, 12 officer and 29 enlisted positions were reallocated to enlisted combat positions.

The Air Force requested permission to reallocate 564 of its 1,168 reduction. However, OSD approved the reallocation of only 426 positions (42 officer and 384 enlisted) to fill aircrew, maintenance, and security requirements. None of its civilian positions were reallocated.

In implementing the reductions over 3 fiscal years, each of the services expects to be able to meet the reductions through normal attrition and rotation. OSD does not anticipate the need for any major reductions-in-force.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our objective was to obtain information on DOD's plans for implementing the reductions in headquarters organizations outlined in OSD's December 1, 1988, report to the Congress. We interviewed key OSD officials and obtained documents detailing where the reductions were made. We did not verify the accuracy of the documents provided by OSD. We conducted our review from February 1989 to April 1989 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

We discussed the information obtained with DOD officials and included their comments where appropriate. Unless you announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this fact sheet until 5 days from its issuance. At that time, we will send copies to the Chairmen, House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Armed Services; the Secretaries of Defense and the Army, Navy, and Air Force; and the Director, Office of Management and Budget. We will also make copies available to other parties upon request.

GAO staff members who made major contributions to this fact sheet were William E. Beusse, Assistant Director, and James F. Reid, Evaluator-in-Charge. If you need further information, please call me at 275-3990.

Sincerely yours,

Harold J. Johnson
Director, Manpower Issues

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